on passengers entering/detraining from coaches and coaches are properly locked during their run.

(6) Announcement through public address system and CCN at important stations to alert travelling public against theft of their belongings etc.

(7) Wherever the State Govt. wants to establish mobile post in the running trains, necessary facilities like accommodation etc. are being provided.

Cancellation of confirmed reservations in Kalka Mail

1513. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Mnister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to accommodate MPs going to Chail in Himachal Pradesh to witness a cricket match, in Kalka Mail from Delhi on 12th May, 2000, confirmed reservations of 1st Class AC passengers were cancelled, thereby causing a lot of inconvenience to them; and

(b) whether it is a fact that passengers were refused entry into the train at the nick of time, without information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The train No. 2311 Howrah-Kalka Mail which was scheduled to leave Howrah on 11.5.2000 and passing through Delhi on 12.5.2000 was cancelled by Eastern Railway due to "Bharat Bandh". Consequently, all the passengers booked by this train were granted refund.

Half price tickets for Rashtrapati Awardee Teachers

1514. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are giving II Class half price tickets to teachers who were honoured with Rashtrapati award;

(b) what type of facilities are given to other such awardees; and

(c) whether Government would consider some better honour to such awardees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Teachers honoured with National Award by President of India are granted 50% concession in Second and Sleeper Class Mail/ Express fares.

(b) The following facilities are given to other awardees:

(1) 30% concession in Mail/express fares of all classes and in the fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains to Police Personnel of 60 years and above who have received President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

(2) Free travel in Second/Sleeper class for children upto attaining 18 years of age honoured with National Bravery Award and 50% concession in Second/Sleeper class Mail/Express fares to either of Parent accompaying the child.

(3) Complimentary card passes are issued to Arjun Awardees, Olympic Medalists, Asian and Commonwealth Gold Medalists, Dronacharya Awardees, Winner of Chakra Series Gallantry Awards (Defence), Winners of President's Police Medal for Gallantry & Police Medal for Gallantry (Police).

(c) In view of the compelling needs for economy & austerity on the face of resource crunch, the scope of concession/ complimentary card passes is not being enlarged.

Railway Power Corporation

1515. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up an autonomous Indian Railway Power Corporation as a canalising agency for procurement of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have examined the proposal of National Thermal Power Corporation for equity participation in its power generation project; and

(d) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) There is